

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 039188
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:JSARTORIUS:CSCHRISTIAN:PAW
APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
FOR EA ONLY

-----020571 151525Z /47

R 142303Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039188

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, ENRG, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO : EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HAS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT A 7-PAGE
REBUTTAL TO THE ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WE SUBMITTED
TO THE CONGRESS ON JANUARY 31. AMONG THE POINTS MADE ARE
THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS MANDATED BY THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE
THEMSELVES THROUGH THE 1935 CONSTITUTION AND SEVERAL
REFERENDA, THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS' EXERCISE OF THE LEGIS-
LATIVE POWER "HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE MANIFEST DESIRES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 039188

OF THE PEOPLE AND TO THE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRY AND
PEOPLE", THAT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION -- THROUGH THE
BARANGAYS, OR VILLAGE COUNCILS -- HAS BEEN INCREASED AND
ENHANCED, AND THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT "NOT ONLY
ENDEAVORS TO PROTECT (THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON)...
IT SEEKS TO ASSURE THAT THE FILIPINO WILL HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO PROTECT HIS FREEDOM -- EVEN AGAINST HIS OWN
GOVERNMENT." EACH SECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
(I.E., ON TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT, ETC.)
IS THEN COUNTERED. THE COMMENT CONCLUDES: "THE PHILIP-

PINE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO WELCOME AND ASSIST REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS...(BUT) DOES NOT, OF COURSE, FEEL THAT ITS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE TREATMENT OF ITS OWN PEOPLE, ARE BETTER JUDGED BY OTHERS...CERTAIN OBSERVERS OBVIOUSLY CAME TO LOOK FOR THE IMPERFECTIONS AND SEEMED HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SOME BASIS -- HOWEVER TENUOUS AND AMBIGUOUS -- TO SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN TRANSGRESSION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN IN THE PHILIPPINES." (THE COMPLETE TEXT IS BEING POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY MANILA.)

2. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MUCH OF EA/PHL'S TIME DURING THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE HEARING SCHEDULED BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER FOR FEBRUARY 16 ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES. IN ADDITION TO DRAFTING BOB OAKLEY'S TESTIMONY, WE RECEIVED A VISIT FROM JOHN SALZBERG, WHO DELVED INTO THE SUBJECT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES OPERATING AGAINST MUSLIM INSURGENTS IN THE SOUTH. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY AND IN CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 039188

THE AMOUNT OF U.S. SUPPORT WHICH IT RECEIVES. WE GAVE HIM FACTUAL REPLIES.

WE WERE VISITED ON FEBRUARY 8 BY ONE OF THE PROSPECTIVE WITNESSES AT THE HEARING, A FATHER JAMES TRAVIS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE MARYKNOLL ORDER IN SOUTHEASTERN MINDANAO. FATHER TRAVIS WAS FULL OF EMOTIONAL TALES OF MISDEEDS BY THE AFP AGAINST THE LOCAL POPULATION AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PRODUCE AT THE HEARING FRAGMENTS OF SHELL CASINGS WHICH HE COLLECTED IN HIS PARISH WHICH BEAR MARKINGS INDICATING THAT THEY WERE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT HIS TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING WOULD RESULT IN THE DEATHS OF SOME PEOPLE IN MINDANAO (POSSIBLY INCLUDING SOME FRIENDS OF HIS) AND ALSO IN A REFUSAL BY THE GOP TO READMIT HIM TO THE COUNTRY.

3. EXPULSION OF AMERICAN MEMBER OF LASALETTE MISSIONARY ORDER (CONFIDENTIAL)

BROTHER LEO BLANCHET VISITED EA/PHL ON FEBRUARY 10 TO DISCUSS HIS SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM THE PHILIPPINES AFTER 19 1/2 YEARS' ASSIGNMENT THERE WITH THE LASALETTE MISSIONARY ORDER. ACCORDING TO BROTHER BLANCHET, THE DEPARTURE, WHICH HE TERMED AN "EXPULSION", WAS THE RESULT OF PRESSURE ON ROME BY FILIPINO MEMBERS OF THE ORDER, AND THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED. HE

CLAIMS THE CAUSE FOR THIS ACTION WAS HIS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF MISHANDLING OF FUNDS DONATED THROUGH THE ORDER'S PROCURATION CENTER IN SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS., AND THAT THERE IS AN ACTIVE "FILIPINIZATION" PROGRAM UNDER WAY, THROUGH WHICH THE FILIPINO MEMBERS HOPE TO GAIN UNCONTESTED CONTROL OF THE SIZEABLE FUNDS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW FROM THE U.S. HE CLAIMS THAT OTHER FOREIGN-BASED ORDERS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO THE SAME PRESSURE FOR EXPULSIONS, AMONG THEM THE SPANISH DOMINICANS OF SANTO TOMAS, A CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 039188

BELGIAN ORDER, AND THE MARYKNOLLERS OF DAVAO.

BROTHER BLANCHET CLAIMS THE ASSETS OF THE PHILIPPINE BRANCH OF THE LASALETTE ORDER NOW TOTAL MORE THAN DOLS 10 MILLION AND THE INTEREST DERIVED THEREFROM CAME TO OVER DOLS 200,000 IN 1977, MORE THAN ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE ORDER. HE INTENDS TO PRESS THE PROCURATION CENTER TO HALT ALL FURTHER FUNDS TRANSFERS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND, IF NECESSARY, MAY PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PROPER CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO BRING ABOUT AN INVESTIGATION SIMILAR TO THAT MADE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE PALLOTTINE FATHERS IN MARYLAND. AMONG THE USES TO WHICH HE CLAIMS FUNDS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED ARE THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF FILIPINO MEMBERS' FAMILIES AND THE SUPPORT OF FAR LEFT/COMMUNIST CAUSES, INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF A FILIPINO LASALETTE BROTHER WHO IS "CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN LEFT". HE NAMES LASALETTE FATHER EFREN LAPUZ MUSNGI AS THE PRINCIPAL INSTIGATOR OF HIS EXPULSION (AND A PRINCIPAL RECIPIENT OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL BENEFIT) AND SAYS MUSNGI HAS BEEN PRESSING THE AMERICAN ORDER TO ASSIST HIM IN OBTAINING AN "L-1 CONGREGATIONAL VISA," WHICH WOULD SUPPOSEDLY PERMIT HIM TO TRAVEL FREQUENTLY TO THE U.S., PRIMARILY TO CONTINUE TO SOLICIT FUNDS IN THIS COUNTRY.

IT WAS EXPLAINED TO BROTHER BLANCHET THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT COULD NEITHER PROMOTE NOR BLOCK THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM AN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS ORDER TO AN AFFILIATED GROUP IN ANOTHER COUNTRY BUT THAT WE COULD, IF HE WISHED, INFORM THE EMBASY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LASALETTE ORDER AND ENSURE THAT THE 10 REMAINING AMERICAN MEMBERS ARE SAFE. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT AND ASKED THAT HIS VISIT BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 039188

4. PLANNED ARTICLE ON MARCOS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ON FEBRUARY 15 I BRIEFED JOHN SARR, A FREE LANCE JOURNALIST, WHO IS PROCEEDING TO MANILA TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON

PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS THE GERMAN EQUIVALENT OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE. I GAVE HIM AN OVERALL BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SCENE AND THE STATE OF U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS, AS WELL AS SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE "FIRST FAMILY".

5. WESTINGHOUSE APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT (CONFIDENTIAL)

WESTINGHOUSE'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, (RETIRED AMBASSADOR) DWIGHT PORTER, CALLED ON BOB OAKLEY FEBRUARY 10 IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN LONG'S RECENT HIGHLY CRITICAL HEARINGS ON THE COMPANY'S PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT. PORTER FIRMLY DENIED ANY COMPANY WRONGDOING IN THE MATTER OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS PAID (TO DISINI) TO SECURE THE CONTRACT. ON THE QUESTION OF WESTINGHOUSE RELUCTANCE PUBLICLY TO BREAK DOWN THE PROJECT PRICING, PORTER EXPLAINED ITS WORLDWIDE POLICY OF SELLING AND QUOTING A TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE. WESTINGHOUSE'S NUCLEAR REACTOR PRICE IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, BUT THAT FOR THE ASSOCIATED TURBINES LESS SO. WHILE THE TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE IS COMPETITIVE, PORTER MAINTAINED, A SEPARATE QUOTATION FOR THE TURBINES WOULD INVITE OTHER SUPPLIERS TO TRY AND TAKE THAT PART OF THE BUSINESS FROM WESTINGHOUSE. IN COMING TO THE POINT OF THE MEETING, PORTER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CONGRESSMAN LONG MIGHT PRESSURE EXIM TO WITHDRAW FROM ITS 1976 COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THE PHILIPPINE PROJECT (SINCE LONG'S COMMITTEE HANDLES EXIM APPROPRIATIONS, AND THE BANK'S CHARTER IS UP FOR RENEWAL LATER THIS YEAR). PORTER ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT IMPRESS UPON TOP-LEVEL HOUSE LEADERSHIP, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 039188

PERHAPS APPROPRIATE QUARTERS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE OF SUCH ACTION ON OVERALL U.S./RP RELATIONS. WE INDICATED THAT WE SAW NO INDICATION THAT EXIM WOULD BACK OFF FROM ITS FINANCING AGREEMENT AND THAT THE ONLY REMAINING USG ACTION WAS NRC CONSIDERATION OF THE REACTOR EXPORT LICENSE. WE AND PORTER AGREED THAT EVERYTHING ELSE BEING EQUAL, NRC IN DUE COURSE WOULD LIKELY APPROVE THE LICENSE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO VERY CLOSELY FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS AND COULD BE IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH PORTER.

6. CONGRESSMAN BEDELL VISIT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BEDELL'S STAFF AS HE PUTS TOGETHER HIS PLANS FOR A VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES MARCH 23-28. THE TRIP WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE ACTUAL CHANNEL FOR THE FUNDING TO BE ONE OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE

COALITION. WE HAVE ALERTED BEDELL TO POSSIBLE PITFALLS
OF PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP AND HE HAS MADE CLEAR TO SEVERINA
RIVERA (FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE) WHO IS ORGANIZING
THE TRIP THAT HE WANTS AMPLE TIME FOR INDEPENDENT
SCHEDULING ON WHICH WE ARE COOPERATING.

7. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE039188
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/PHL:BAFLECK:JSARTORIUS:CSCHRISTIAN:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802118/baaabevo.tel
Line Count: 229
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 76dd21cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3470409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, ENRG, RP
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76dd21cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014